Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 171425Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7476
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DEA HQ WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SOFIA 0064

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR.BU. GW

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS LIAISON WITH BULGARIA

MUNICH, BONN AND PARIS FOR DEA

REF: A. MUNICH 0076; B. SOFIA 0984; AUGUST 2, 1973

- 1. BONEV AND TSVETKOV WELCOME VISIT AND SUGGEST FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 SUITABLE.
- 2. AT TIME OF CREATION OF DEA QEUSTION AROSE WHETHER OR NOT BULGARS WOULD OBJECT TO WORKING WITH NEW AGENCY. AT MEETING WITH BULGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS (DESCRIBED REFTEL (B)) THEY MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW "NO NEW ELEMENTS" SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO LIAISON AND THAT US PERSONNEL SHOULD BE THOSE FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH BUREAU OF CUSTOMS.
- 3. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS REGARDING EGLSEDER CASE, BONEV HAS VERY POLITELY THANKED EMBASSY FOR CONTINUING TO USE CUSTOMS AS LIAISON CHANNEL FOR INFORMATION WITHIN COMPETENCE OF BULGARIAN POLICE OFFICIALS, WITH STRONG IMPLICATION THAT ANY US EFFORTS TO MEET WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICERS INVOLVED WITH NARCOTICS

WOULD NOT BE KINDLY REGARDED AT THIS TIME.

- 4. WE ASSUME THAT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE JOHNSON IS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH BNDD, RATHER THAN CUSTOMS. IF SUCH IS THECASE, JOHNSON'S VISIT TO BULGARIA CANNOT BE APPROVED. PERHAPS AFTER RAKOVSKY AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER MEET DIRECTLY WITH BONEV AND EXPLAIN NEW STRUCTURE OF DEA, A VISIT BY JOHNSON WILL BE POSSIBLE AND WELCOME BY EMBASSY.
- 5. EMBASSY AGREES WITH INTEREST IN PARA 2 REFTEL
 (A) IN EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH
 NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS. THIS, HOWEVER, IS DELICATE
 QUESTION WHICH WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY AND FULLY
 PREPARED WITH BONEY AND OTHER CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.
- 6. ACCORDINGLY WE HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS FOR RAKOVSKY WITH VIEW TO REVIEWING ENTIRE SITUATION WITH BONEV. IF MEETINGS ARE SUCCESSFUL, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME NOT ONLY VISIT BY JOHNSON, BUT OTHER PERSONNEL AT A LATER DATE. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT MAY CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTY, WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW WITHOUT RISKING PRESENT LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS. BATJER

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